

REMARKS

In the Office Action of November 26, 2008 ("Office Action"), the Examiner required restriction to one of the Species of Embodiments 1, 2, and 3, as described in the Application, at ¶¶ 0010, 0011 and 0012, respectively. Embodiment 1 is drawn to a hierarchical framework for a library of software process management methodologies; Embodiment 2 is drawn to a method for mapping a knowledge base into a hierarchical framework to facilitate reusability of task objects between related work domains; and Embodiment 3 is drawn to a method for providing access to information and deliverable samples for executing an information technology methodology. The Office Action asserts that claims 13-21 have precipitated the species restriction because those claims, in view of the subject matter claimed in the previously elected claims 6-8, are allegedly directed to patentably distinct species.

Assignee respectfully elects the Species of Embodiment 2 without traverse. Assignee submits that claims 6-8 and 13-17 and new claims 22-25 encompass the elected species of Embodiment 2. Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims 6-8, 13-17 and 22-25, and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Claims 6-8 and 13-21 were pending in the application. Assignee has amended claims 13, 15, 16 and 17, and added new claims 22-25 to clarify the claims. Claims 18-21 are withdrawn without prejudice in view of the election. Amendments to ¶¶ 0104 and 0106 were made to correctly reference Figures 7 and task document 700, respectively. Supported for the amendments can be found in the Application at least at ¶¶ 0011, 0024-0025, 0027, 0030-0033, 0038, 0040, 0047, 0052, 0062-0064, 0067, 0078, 0082, 0087, 0099-0100, and 0103-0107, and Figures 1, 5, 6 and 7. No new matter has been added. After entry of the amendment, claims 6-8, 13-17 and 22-25 are pending. The presently pending claims 6-8, 13-17 and 22-25 are all within the scope of Embodiment 2.

Claim 13, as amended, recites "the activity objects correspond to activities that describe a process of the methodology and each activity object includes role information that identifies skill sets needed to complete a task for the activity." The Application, at ¶ 0011, indicates the "method includes defining a set of taxonomies comprising members of a universe of activity objects and organizing a set of task objects." In other words,

activity objects and task objects are clearly supported by the elected Species of Embodiment 2. The Application, at ¶ 0038, indicates that “processes are defined as what a team member needs to do, and are preferably broken down hierarchically as activities, tasks and steps.” The Application, at ¶¶ 0062-0063, indicates that “task objects define the individual actions required to complete the activity and role information may also be contained in an activity object.” The Application, at ¶ 0027, describes “organizing a methodology into processes based on the skill sets required to complete the processes.” Claim 13 further recites “task objects corresponds to tasks that describe each activity and a set of steps describe each task.” The Application, at ¶ 0040, indicates that “tasks, in turn, are described as a sequence or compilation of steps.” The Application, at ¶ 0052, indicates that “every business process is a series of steps at its lowest level.” The Application, at ¶ 0067, indicates that each “task object also includes information defining the steps for completing the task.” Thus, the features recited in claim 13, as amended, are clearly supported by the elected Species of Embodiment 2.

Claim 14 recites a list of activities. The Application, at ¶ 0011, indicates that the “method includes defining a set of taxonomies comprising members of a universe of activity objects for a methodology.” The Application, at 0107, indicates that “a core service activity -- Provide Service 812, and eight common supporting activities: Human Resources 814, Unit Management 816, Finance & Reporting 818, Performance Measurement 820, Process & Quality Management 822, Service Management 824, Technology Enablement 826, and Facilities & Equipment 828.” Thus, the features recited in claim 14 are clearly supported by the elected Species of Embodiment 2.

Claim 15, as amended, recites activities that include “analyzing, designing, building and testing application.” The Application, at ¶ 0011, indicates that “the objects contain descriptions of tasks for executing an information technology methodology.” The Application, at ¶¶ 0034, 0040, 0097, describes “analyze activities”, a “Design Application activity”, and “the activity of design application and the next activity, build application.” Thus, the features recited in claim 15 are clearly supported by the elected Species of Embodiment 2.

Claim 16, as amended, recites "activities correspond to a group of processes that are usually performed by a team of people with related skill sets." The Application, at ¶ 0011, describes the "reusability of task objects between related work domains." The Application, at ¶ 0032, describes "processes that address a variety of related work domains, such as methodologies" and grouped together "processes usually performed by a team of people with related skill sets." Thus, the features recited in claim 16 are clearly supported by the elected Species of Embodiment 2.

Claim 17 recites "wherein one object group is associated with planning the implementation of an application development project for a methodology, and defining a set of tasks for deploying the application development project." The Application, at ¶ 0011, describes "organizing a set of task objects of singular granularity into object groups." The Application, at ¶¶ 0024-0025, indicates that "the embodiments discussed in this application relate to two types of methodologies: development methodologies and operations methodologies, and development methodologies are collections of information that explain how to plan, mobilize and/or execute the development of a product, for example, application development." Thus, the features recited in claim 17 are clearly supported by the elected Species of Embodiment 2.

New claim 22 recites "the second level documents are activity documents that identify activity objects for one of the respective taxonomies from the set of taxonomies and the third level documents are task documents that identify task objects for one of the activity documents." The Application, at ¶ 0011, describes "a second level document representing an activity object and a third level document representing a task object." The Application, at ¶¶ 0103-0104 and Figures 6 and 7, describes an activity document 600 and task document 700. Thus, the features recited in claim 22 are clearly supported by the elected Species of Embodiment 2.

New claim 23, which depends from claim 22, recites "an activity planning chart that contains graphically depicted tasks for the task objects." The Application, at ¶ 0099, indicates that the activity document includes activity planning chart. New claim 24, which depends from claim 22, recites "activity documents employ colors to designate the roles for the tasks." The Application, at ¶ 0100, indicates that "colors are used to designate the roles associated with the activities of the planning chart." New

claim 25, which depends from claim 22, recites that "the task documents include: a task planning chart that contains process steps for each of the tasks; and a list of the principle objectives and outcomes for each of the tasks." The Application, at ¶¶ 0104-0105, indicates that within "the task document 700 a task planning chart 702 is provided, and a list of the principle objectives and outcomes for the task." For at least the same reasons that claim 22 recites features clearly supported by the elected Species of Embodiment 2, claims 23-25 recites features clearly supported by the elected Species of Embodiment 2.

Assignee respectfully submits that Claims 6-8, 13-17 and 22-25 are clearly supported by the elected Species of Embodiment 2 and in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the contact the Assignee's undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200, if such communication would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert D. Summers Jr.
Registration No. 57,844
Attorney for Assignee

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
CUSTOMER NO. 28164

Telephone: (312) 321-4200

Facsimile: (312) 321-4299